

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

Kaibab National Forest
Tusayan Ranger District

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Prescribed Burning Planned Near Tusayan

WILLIAMS, Ariz. – Fire managers on the Kaibab National Forest plan to conduct two prescribed burns through next week near Tusayan.

Firefighters will ignite the Red Horse Prescribed Burn tomorrow. About 150 acres are scheduled to be burned tomorrow and an additional 150 acres are scheduled for burning Monday. The Red Horse burn area is located about 11 miles south/southwest of Desert View and about a mile west of Red Horse Tank.

If burning operations are successful and conditions remain appropriate, burning could continue in the Red Horse project area through next week. Up to 800 acres total are available for burning there. Smoke is expected to drift into Upper Basin and toward Desert View during the day. At night, smoke may move toward Valle. Fire managers will be closely monitoring smoke impacts to Grand Canyon National Park and the community of Valle.

The purpose of burning within the Red Horse project area is to reduce the amount of fuels on the forest floor, reduce the risk of future high-intensity wildland fires, and reintroduce fire as a natural process within the ecosystem. The area scheduled for burning is surrounded by areas previously treated with fire.

The second area that fire managers will be looking to burn next week is in the Rain project area, which is located about 12 miles west of Grand Canyon Village in the far western corner of the Tusayan Ranger District. Fire managers will be looking to burn up to 400 acres of sagebrush.

Fire managers said it is a good time to conduct the burn since conditions have to be dry in order to effectively burn sagebrush. Fire managers will also be looking for slightly breezy conditions, which will help move the flames through the sagebrush.

The purpose of the sagebrush burn is to improve range conditions, enhance the growth of grasses and forbs, and re-establish fire's natural role in the ecosystem. Fire managers expect smoke production to be minimal. The smoke that is produced should dissipate quickly and shouldn't impact local communities.

For more information, please contact Jackie Denk at 928-635-5607.

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